

**PORT OF EVERETT**  
**Snohomish County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1992 Through December 31, 1992**

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**Schedule Of Findings**

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1. Port Officials Should Comply With State Bid Laws

During 1992 the port initiated a public works project to replace underground fuel tanks and construct concrete vaults to house the new tanks. This was done without calling for competitive bids. Project costs, excluding materials and supplies, reached \$697,332.

The port decided to act as general contractor for the project because of the project's unique nature and the sensitivity of the construction surroundings. An arrangement was made with a contractor to supply labor and equipment. The port purchased the materials and supplies. The contractor was selected based on past experience in successfully completing such a project.

Port officials stated that they acted as general contractor to minimize project costs. They believe that, due to the nature of the project, a less experienced contractor obtained through the bidding process, would have encountered significant problems during construction. This, they contend, would have resulted in numerous change orders that would have substantially increased project costs.

RCW 53.08.120 states:

All material required by a port district may be procured in the open market or by contract and all work ordered may be done by contract or day labor. All such contracts for work, the estimated cost of which exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, shall be let at public bidding upon notice published in a newspaper in the district at least ten days before letting, calling for sealed bids upon the work, plans and specifications for which shall then be on file in the office of the commission for public inspection. . . .

Failure to bid the above project results in noncompliance with the state of Washington's bid laws for contract labor and material.

We recommend that port officials comply with state bid laws.